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BULLETIN of the Children's Book Center. Published by the University of Chicago Library, Center for Children's Books. Mary K. Eakin, Librarian.

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New Titles for Children and Young People.

Agle, Nan Hayden. Three boys and a lighthouse; by Nan Hayden Agle and Ellen Wilson; illus. by Marian Honigman. Scribner's, 1951. 101p. \$2. Gr.3-5. (D102; D16; D104; D113)

Three small boys - identical triplets - spend a summer at their father's lighthouse. The triplets are so nearly alike even their father cannot tell them apart except by their caps - Abercrombie wears a striped cap, Benjamin wears a checked cap, Christopher wears a plain cap. It is a happy day for the boys when their father decides they are old enough to visit him at the lighthouse and an even happier one when they prove their worth as his assistants. The story is easy enough for good second or third grade readers to handle alone and the detailed drawings of the lighthouse will give added interest.

Annxter, Paul. Brought to cover; 15 outdoor tales of action and adventure. Wyn, 1951. 247p. \$2.75. Gr.7-12.

A collection of short stories by the author of Swiftwater. Some of the stories are about wild animals and some about tame ones and all of them reflect the same respect for and understanding of the woods and the animals that live there that are found in the author's novels. These are mature, well-written stories that will be enjoyed by everyone who likes the outdoors.

Ardizzone, Edward. Tim and Charlotte. Oxford, 1951. 44p. \$2.

Another story of little Tim, the hero of Tim and the brave sea captain. This time Tim and Ginger rescue a small girl who has fallen

overboard from a ship. The story is too slight and slow-moving to have much interest for readers who have come to expect daring deeds from Tim and Ginger. The illustrations, partly in color and partly in black and white, lack the appeal of the artist's earlier works. Not recommended.

Averill, Esther. When Jenny lost her scarf; written and illus. by Esther Averill.

Harper, 1951. 31p. \$1.50. Gr.1-3.

More adventures of Jenny Linsky, the small black cat with the bright red scarf. This time Jenny's scarf is stolen by the dogs of Mulligan Street and the tragedy almost puts an end to the cats' annual picnic in Washington Square. The scarf is finally recovered and the picnic a success. This story has the same easy style and suspense that have made the previous books so well liked.

Barnes All-Star Library.

Epstein, Ben. Yogi Berra, the muscle man.

Barnes, 1951. 25p. \$.50. Gr.7-9.

Hoffman, John C. Andy Pafko, the solid man. Barnes, 1951. 25p. \$.50. Gr.7-9.

Smith, Lou. Ewell Blackwell, the whip.

Barnes, 1951. 25p. \$.50. Gr.7-9.

Three more titles in the Barnes All-Star Library series. Like the earlier books these give a brief summary of the player's life and his exploits in baseball and are profusely illustrated with photographs. The player's record is given on the end papers. Laminated boards.

Bates, Barbara S. The happy birthday present; illus. by Marguerite Scott. Wonder books, 1951. 38p. \$.25.

A small boy starts out with his red wheelbarrow to find a birthday present for his mother and ends up with a barrow full of wild flowers. Slight story and unattractive illustrations. Not recommended.

Beim, Jerrold. Tim and the tool chest; illus. by Tracy Sugarman. Morrow, 1951. 46p. \$2. Gr.2-4. (D35)

Tim and his friends want to build a playhouse like the one the older boys are building. Their first attempt is a failure, but then Tim's father steps in and teaches him the proper use of a hammer, saw, and screw driver. When Tim and his friends are able to handle the tools safely and efficiently Tim is given his own set and the house is rebuilt. This story has the same easy style and interesting

subject matter of the other Beim books and has added value in the safety rules that are stressed in using and caring for tools.

Beim, Lorraine (Levey). Carol's side of the street; illus. by Malman. Harcourt, 1951. 213p. \$2.50. (D42;D37;D65) Gr.5-7.

Carol, a young Jewish girl, is excited over the prospect of moving from an apartment to a house where each of the Myers children will have a separate room and where there will be a yard to play in. Her pleasure in the new house is almost ruined when the girl across the street says Jews are not wanted in this neighborhood. However, Carol's understanding family and good friends help relieve the hurt and eventually she and Pamela become friends. Somewhat contrived story but with good family relations and an interesting treatment of some of the problems of inter-religious understanding. Of especial interest to Jewish and Christian children alike is the treatment of the problem of whether or not Carol, as a Jewish girl, should go Christmas caroling with her friends.

Benjamin, Nora (Gottheil). Remember the valley. Harper, 1951. 216p. \$2.50.

Sharon did not look forward to her vacation in the Valley even though she did enjoy the kinds of sports offered there. She was unhappy because of the divorce that was the reason for her mother's presence in the Valley and was self-consciously certain that the divorce would set her apart from the other young people at the hotel. The treatment of both Sharon's and her mother's problems is too superficial to be realistic. After an intense infatuation with one of the hotel guides Sharon falls in love with another guide in what the reader is led to assume will be a "till death do us part" affair. Sharon's mother meets Jeffery Young, a native of the Valley, and marries him soon after her divorce becomes legal. None of the characters are especially well-drawn and the mother is completely unrealistic. Not recommended.

Berkley, Ethel S. pseud. Ups and downs; a first book about space; illus. by Kathleen Elgin. Young Scott, 1951. 23p. \$1.

An attempt to teach concepts of space to young children. Most of the concepts with which the book deals are acquired very early by children and to hear an adult read such statements as "High is like some mountains" will not enrich the meanings appreciably. Illustrations do not always contribute to the meaning of the concept being considered. Not recommended.

Bettina pseud. See Ehrlich, Bettina.

Blanton, Catherine. Trouble on Old Smoky; illus. by Anne Merriman Peck. Whittlesey House, 1951. 142p. \$2.25. Gr.4-6. (D39)

Sunny Anderson wanted to be a doctor but there seemed no chance he would ever achieve his goal since his father would not even allow him to attend the mountain school. To add to his troubles his mother was ill as a result of her worrying over his brother who had not been heard from since he left home two years before,

and the farm was suffering from the depredations of a marauding bear. Eventually the problems were all resolved, Robbie came home, the bear was killed, and Sunny was promised the schooling he wanted. A good picture of life in the Smoky Mountains, and useful for the father-son conflicts.

Bradbury, Bianca. The brave firemen and the firehouse cat; illus. by Stephen Medvey. Wonder books, 1951. 38p. \$.25.

Mediocre story of a cat who lives in a firehouse and longs to be allowed to go to fires on the big ladder truck. One day he hides on the truck and goes to a fire. It turns out to be a frightening experience and he even had to be rescued from one of the tall ladders. Not only is the cat highly personified, the firemen are far more interested in rescuing the cat and getting him home safely than in putting out the fire. Not recommended.

Brown, Margaret Wise. Little fur family; pictures by Garth Williams. Harper, 1951. 26p. \$1.75. K-Gr.1.

Re-issue of a book first published in 1946 as a tiny book with a fur jacket. The new edition is a larger size (9x6½) that is more suited to library use and lacks the fur cover. The story of one day's happenings in the life of the bear family is simply told in a rhythmic prose that is pleasant to read aloud and will please young listeners. The illustrations by Garth Williams add much to the enjoyment of the book.

Buff, Mary (Marsh). The apple and the arrow; by Mary and Conrad Buff. Houghton, 1951. 75p. \$3. Gr.4-6. (D28;D62)

A re-telling of the story of William Tell, hero of Switzerland's revolt against Austria in 1292. The story is told from the point of view of Walter Tell, the young son from whose head Tell shot the apple, and covers the events of the revolt from before the apple episode through the New Year's Eve bonfires that announced the revolution. An exciting narrative with illustrations in color and black and white that add to the effectiveness of the story.

Burt, Olive Woolley. Cloud Girl; illus. by Harry H. Lees. Bobbs-Merrill, 1951. 215p. \$2.50. Gr.6-8. (D59)

Cloud Girl is a modern Navaho girl who lives in town and attends a government school during the winter but returns to the more primitive life of the sheep ranch in the summer. The author shows a real understanding of the Navahos and has given an especially good picture of the way in which Indian children of today are combining the best from both the modern and the old ways of living.

Butters, Dorothy Gilman. Ragamuffin Alley. Macrae, 1951. 206p. \$2.50.

A group of young people living in a boarding house in Ragamuffin Alley, Philadelphia, start an amateur puppet theater in the loft of the building next door. The

author has used an interesting setting and subject but her characters are too quaint and whimsical to be realistic. Not recommended.

Carroll, Lewis, pseud. Alice in Wonderland and Through the looking glass; abridged by Marion E. Gridley; illus. by Janice Holland. Rand McNally, 1951. 32p. (Book-elf books) \$.25.

This edition is slightly better than the Disney version but still bears no resemblance to the Alice that Carroll created. The text is wooden and wholly without appeal. Illustrations are unsuccessful attempts to copy Tenniel. Not recommended.

Commins, Dorothy Berliner, comp. The big book of favorite songs for children; selected and arranged by Dorothy Berliner Commins; illus. by Alice Schlesinger; music drawn by Margaret Brewster. Grosset, 1951. 29p. (Big treasure books) \$1. K-Gr.1.

A collection of simple songs that will be familiar to most children by the time they reach the second grade. The arrangements are satisfactory for very young voices. Directions are given for using some of the songs as singing games. Nicely illustrated.

Cook, Marion Belden. Waggles and the dog catcher; illus. by Louis Darling. Morrow, 1951. 64p. \$2. Gr.3-5.

Waggles is a homeless dog who roams the streets just one jump ahead of the dog catcher. As he goes from one adventure to another he changes color - the result of encounters with coal, flour, ashes, etc. and has the dog catcher thinking there are several dogs instead of just one. The style is repetitious almost to the point of being monotonous but there is enough humor in the situations and the illustrations to sustain the reader's interest. Easy enough for third grade readers to handle alone.

Crist, Eda. Chico; by Eda and Richard Crist. Westminster, 1951. 80p. \$1.50.

Chico, a small Mexican boy, finds two stone idols while helping his father in the fields. With their help he goes looking for the Aztec god, Tlaloc, who is supposed to be able to make it rain. They find the god but discover he is only stone and has no power over the weather. The rain does come, however, in time to save Chico's father's crops and Chico decides his father is right that there is only one God and he is responsible for rain and droughts. The author gives no adequate explanation of how a small boy, reared in a Christian home, is able to project himself so readily into a fantasy involving ancient deities of whom he had never heard before. The resulting confusion will give young readers a distorted and unrealistic picture of Mexicans that will do more to hinder than to aid international understanding. Not recommended.

Dorian, Edith M. Ask Dr. Christmas; illus. by Nora S. Unwin. Whittlesey House, 1951. 144p. \$.25. Gr.4-6. (D37;D59)

Dr. Duncan's hobby was collecting Christmas customs and legends from all over the world and

he found his hobby greatly encouraged by the many nationalities represented among his patients. It had become a custom in the Duncan family to celebrate the Friday before Christmas with a party to which the patients contributed food, games, stories, and songs representing Christmas as they or their ancestors observed it in other lands. The year when Anne decided she was too old for such parties and would be embarrassed to ask her high-school friends to attend almost precipitated a crisis in the family. Understanding parents and friends solved the problem and Anne came to have an even greater appreciation for her father and his hobby. A warm family story skillfully interwoven with interesting Christmas customs and legends. At the end there is a section containing recipes for some of the foods mentioned in the story.

Eager, Edward. Red head; illus. by Louis Slobodkin. Houghton, 1951. 24p. \$1.25. K-Gr.4.

A rollicking story, in verse, of a small boy named Fritz who was plagued with a shock of flaming red hair and the nickname "Red." He runs away from home, which doesn't help a bit, and finally becomes thankful for his hair when it serves as a beacon to light his way home. An ideal book for reading aloud and one that adults and children alike will enjoy. Humorous illustrations.

Earle, Olive Lydia. Thunder wings; the story of a ruffed grouse; written and illus. by Olive L. Earle. Morrow, 1951. 48p. \$2. Gr.2-4.

The story of a ruffed grouse from birth through the first year of his life. The black-and-white illustrations are clear and accurate and, added to the simple text, make a book that will be interesting reading and useful for beginning nature study classes.

Ehrlich, Bettina. Castle in the sand; story and pictures by Bettina, pseud., Harper, 1951. 48p. \$1.75.

An exceedingly precious story of the friendship of two young children (Freckles, a girl, and Curls, a boy) at an Italian seashore resort. The two have a secret guessing game which they play each day until their fun is spoiled by Freckles' infatuation with a handsome park musician. The story is too delicate and too adult in tone to have appeal for young readers. Not recommended.

Epstein, B. Yogi Berra, the muscle man. See Barnes all-star library.

Evatt, Harriet. The mystery of the Alpine Castle; illus. by the author. Bobbs-Merrill, 1951. 242p. \$2.50.

Paula Roch lives in the Alpmeadow at the foot of the Jungfrau. Her life is reasonably serene until one day when she becomes involved with a strange white cat, a man disguised as a chimney-sweep, and a castle that is supposed to be abandoned but isn't. In the end a satisfactory solution is found to these and to several other mysteries that are introduced for no very good reason. So many unrelated elements

are introduced that the story becomes confusing. The characters' speech is an unsuccessful attempt to reproduce the flavor of the Swiss language through a literal translation of phrases. Not recommended.

Furman, Abraham Louis, ed. Young readers outdoor sports stories; illus. by Charles H. Geer. Lantern pr., 1951. 190p. \$2.50.

Mediocre collection of sports stories. Some of the authors are well-known but the selections as a whole are not outstanding. Too expensive for the quality of writing. Not recommended.

Glendinning, Margarite. Gertie the horse who thought and thought; illus. by Louis Slobodkin. Whittlesey House, 1951. 88p. \$2.25. Gr.3-5.

Gertie did an unusual amount of thinking for a horse but her thoughts were unusually misunderstood by humans. Then came one glorious summer when she was sent from Farmer McNab's farm to an island resort where she met nine-year-old Tommy who was the first person to understand her. During that summer she came close to disgracing herself but ended up a heroine and was finally appreciated although not in the way she had planned. A humorous story that will have appeal for young readers. Slobodkin's illustrations are perfect for the story and add greatly to its humor.

Gordon, Patricia. Quillenback for fire chief; by Joan Howard, pseud.; pictures by Garry MacKenzie. Oxford, 1951. 49p. \$1.50.

The small animals of the woods are threatened by a forest fire, elect Quillenback (the porcupine) as fire chief, and under his direction put out the fire. Forced humor and unsuccessful fantasy. Not recommended.

Hadsell, Alice. Mr. Punnymoon's train; illus. by Katherine L. Phillips. Rand McNally, 1951. 32p. (Book-elf books) \$.25. K-Gr.2.

When Mr. Punnymoon retires as a railroad engineer he builds a small model railroad, installs it in the city park and spends the rest of his life taking children for rides around the park. A slight but pleasant story and children will enjoy the pictures of the various cars that make up the train.

Hoffman, J. C. Andy Pafko, the solid man. See Barnes all-star library.

Hogeboom, Amy. Sea animals and how to draw them. Vanguard, 1951. 39p. \$1.75. Gr.4-6.

Follows the pattern of the other books in this series with step-by-step instructions on how to draw each animal, a full-page photograph of the animal, and a brief text describing it and giving something of where and how it lives. Contents include: dolphin, whale, polar bear, turtle, shark, walrus, penguin, crocodile, and seal. Useful for art and nature study classes.

Howard, Joan pseud. See Gordon, Patricia.

Jackson, Kathryn. The golden treasure book; 34 stories of fun and adventure; by Kathryn

Jackson and others; illus. by Cornelius DeWitt and others. Simon and Schuster, 1951. 192p. (A big golden book) \$1.50.

A collection of stories and poems most of which have been published as separates in the Little Golden Books or Golden Story Books series. Mediocre stories, poorly illustrated. Not recommended.

Jones, Lloid. Sentinel in the saddle; by Lloid and Juanita Jones; illus. by W. H. Wickham. Westminster, 1951. 240p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9. (D86)

Marsh Temple approached high school graduation perturbed that he had not decided on a career. When coyotes became a pest in the Chiricahua Basin he signed on as a government hunter and eventually decided to make this his life work. An interesting story of an unusual career, this has the same qualities of character development and warm family relations that were found in Holiday mountain plus a subject that should prove interesting to boys and girls alike.

Karasz, Ilonka. Christmas calendar; the days before Christmas. Harper, 1951. 4p. \$1.75.

A Christmas item that cannot be classed as a book but can be used by libraries or homes for Christmas displays or as a guide for making Advent Houses. A double-page spread shows a small village with each building numbered. The numbers - from 5 through 25 - represent the days of December from Saint Nicholas Day through Christmas Day. The building roofs or fronts are cut to lift up and show the activities of the people each day. The pictures are small and not always satisfactory since it is often impossible to tell exactly what the people are doing. A list on the back cover tells what each day is supposed to represent.

Kessler, Leonard P. What's in a line? W. R. Scott, 1951. 32p. \$1.50.

The purpose of this book seems to be to teach the variety of concepts - from a person's name to a drawing of a house - which can be communicated by lines. The idea is too mature for the primary group for whom the book is intended. Illustrations are an adult's conception of children's art and are neither child-like nor good art. Not recommended.

Kjelgaard, James Arthur. The explorations of Pere Marquette; illus. by Stephen J. Voorhies. Random House, 1951. 181p. (A landmark book) \$1.50.

A simply told account of the life of Pere Marquette that fails to achieve any feeling of reality in either the characterizations or the incidents. The information is accurate but the writing is wooden and uninteresting. A particularly disappointing story in view of the fine writing that readers have come to expect from this author.

Kjelgaard, James Arthur. Fire-hunter; illus. by Ralph Ray. Holiday House, 1951. 217p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

A dramatic story of the days when men lived in wandering tribes and were not much better off than the animals they hunted. The story concerns Hawk, the chief spear-maker, and

Willow, a young girl of the tribe, both of whom were abandoned and left to die. Hawk had more ability than some of his tribesmen to observe what went on around him and use what he saw, with the result that he and Willow not only survived but even found new and better ways of living and hunting. The story is authentic as far as the sequence of happenings is known but time has been telescoped to fit the needs of the story. The writing is excellent and the story one that will hold the interest of all readers.

Krauss, Ruth. The bundle book; pictures by Helen Stone. Harper, 1951. 26p. \$1.75. Pre-school.

A mother and small child play a guessing game in which the child hides under the cover and the mother tries to guess what the bundle is. This is a book that will be fun for reading aloud to very young children who will recognize the game as one they enjoy. Beautifully illustrated.

Lane, Carl Daniel. Mystery trail; illus. by the author. Little, 1951. 231p. \$2.75.

Another unsuccessful attempt to combine fiction and informational material. The story concerns a group of boys who are preparing to become camp counselors and who become involved in a semi-precious jewel and uranium hunt in the Appalachian Mountains. Mixed into the story and completely stopping the action every few pages is a wealth of camping information that is useful but could be obtained in a much more interesting and satisfactory manner from a book on camping such as Pashko's Boy's complete book of camping (Greenberg, 1951). Not recommended.

Lathrop, West. Unwilling pirate; illus. by Edgard Cirlin. Random House, 1951. 277p. \$2.75. Gr.7-9.

A pirate story with all the elements needed to make it a success. Young Steven Wheeler is kidnapped by the pirate, Dick Turngate, and forced to serve as cabin boy on the Black Betsy. During a mutiny he and three companions manage to escape and after many adventures make their way back home. The story is well-written with enough excitement and suspense to hold the reader's interest.

Lee, Roy [pseud.]. Indians, fire engines and rabbits; illus. by Phyllis Rowand. Little, 1951. 126p. \$2.

When asked what he would like to have a book about, young Cy finally decided it would be nice to have one about Indians, fire engines, and rabbits. This is the result. The Indians and rabbit are in the story because of the part they played in helping the first Cyrus and his family to settle in this country. The fire engine is mentioned in one sentence for the benefit of the modern Cy but does not add to the story. There are frequent interpolations by Cy and his father (indicated by the use of italics) which are mildly whimsical from an adult point of view but will not have interest for young readers. Read without the interpolations the story is pointless and dull. Not recommended.

Lipkind, William. Finders keepers; by Will [pseud.] and Nicholas [pseud.]. Harcourt, 1951. 28p. \$2. Gr.2-4.

The author and illustrator of The two reds

have combined their talents in another picture-story book that is as original and in some ways more satisfactory than the earlier one. Two dogs find a bone, can't decide who owns it, and finally settle their problem when they unite against a common enemy. Strikingly illustrated with the same use of bold colors that made The two reds an outstanding picture book.

Lloyd, Mary Edna. Jesus, the little new baby; pictures by Grace Paull. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1951. 23p. \$1. Pre-school. (D101)

A simplified version of the story of the birth of Jesus designed for reading aloud to very young children. A satisfactory gift book for the child's home library and one that public and Sunday school libraries will find useful.

Lopez, Ella Bishop. Croakie goes west; a story for children; by Ella Bishop Lopez and Elizabeth Southard Layton; illus. by Lois Proctor Parker. Exposition pr., 1951. 59p. \$2.50.

Croakie is a frog who wants to be a cowboy. When his chance comes he goes west and shows all the natives how good an easterner can be. Forced humor and fantasy. Dull format. Not recommended.

McClung, Robert M. Stripe; the story of a chipmunk; written and illus. by Robert M. McClung. Morrow, 1951. 48p. \$2. Gr.2-4.

Simple text and colorful illustrations tell the story of a chipmunk from birth to maturity. An excellent book for nature study classes and the large print and interesting style will make the book useful for remedial reading material.

MacGregor, Ellen. Miss Pickerell goes to Mars; illus. by Paul Galdone. Whittlesey house, 1951. 128p. \$2.25. Gr.4-6.

A delightful combination of science fiction and nonsense in the Mary Poppins vein. Miss Pickerell goes to Mars quite against her wishes and the wishes of the members of the rocket ship crew, but she proves herself equal to any emergency. Good fun and as accurate as science fiction can be.

Mason, George Frederick. Animal tools. Morrow, 1951. 94p. \$2. Gr. 5-7.

Interesting and accurate information about the anatomical features of animals which they use much as men use tools. Written in an easy and readable style with clear drawings to illustrate the various tools. Excellent nature study material.

Mazer, Virginia. The children downstairs; photographs by Hazel V. Orton. Friendship pr., 1951. 126p. \$2 cloth; \$1.25 paper.

A child from each of four South American countries (Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Peru) tells something of what life is like in his country. The simile of the upstairs (North America) and downstairs (South America) is overdrawn and there is not much real information about the countries in the sketches. The best and most useful part of the book are the

photographs and they are not enough to overcome the poor text. Not recommended.

Melvin, A. Gordon. Adventures on midsummer evenings; illus. by Lorna Strong Melvin. Exposition pr., 1951. 61p. \$2.

Forced fantasy and adult humor in a series of adventures of a small boy and his adult friend who start out to hear some outdoor summer concerts and end up in strange places. The two meet a rather remarkable cook who leads them from a contest between crabs and mermaids to a session with the Indians. A good try that does not succeed. Dull format. Not recommended.

Palmer, Robin. Wise house; pictures by Decie Merwin. Harper, 1951. 138p. \$2.

Three children (seven-year-old twins and a nine-year-old boy) under the care of a crow, a cat, and a dog (all of them able to talk) move their house to Maine. There they have adventures with talking seals and gulls and end up finding pirate treasure. An attempt at fantasy that does not succeed and a disappointing book after the very real humor and fun of the author's The Barkingtons. Not recommended.

Reed, Dorothy. A farm for Andy; illus. by Marguerite Gayer. Rand McNally, 1951. 32p. (Book-elf books) \$.25.

When Andy moved from the farm to the city he had difficulty making friends with the children in his neighborhood. His family solved the problem by building a small farm in his back yard and stocking it with rabbits, ducks and chickens. The neighborhood children came to see the animals and stayed to play with Andy. Slight story and unattractive illustrations. Not recommended.

Rounds, Glen. Hunted horses; written and illus. by Glen Rounds. Holiday House, 1951. 156p. \$2.25. Gr.6-12.

The story of a wild palomino stallion and his attempts to save his band from capture. The scene is the Bad Lands and the author has drawn a vivid picture of the difficulties of animal life in this section. The story is written with a vigor and drama that will appeal to readers from the upper elementary grades through high school.

Rush, William Marshall. Wild horses of Rainrock; decorations by Ralph Ray. Longmans, 1951. 236p. \$2.50. Gr.7-9.

An exceptionally well-written ranch story of a boy who sets out to win a place for himself on his uncle's ranch and to help save the ranch from bankruptcy. Young Dan Gordon proves himself just as hardheaded as his cantankerous uncle and with the help of two of the ranch hands succeeds in saving the ranch and starting to build a herd of Appaloosas.

Samachson, Dorothy. Let's meet the ballet. Schuman, 1951. 204p. \$4. Gr.8-12.

Information about the history and staging of a ballet, written for teen-age readers and adults who are complete novices on the subject. An interestingly written and informative book that is made even more useful by its wealth of photographs of ballet dancers and ballets - old and modern. Also contains sections on modern dance, ethnic and ethnological dances, and character ballet.

Sechrist, Elizabeth (Hough), comp. Poems for red letter days; illus. by Guy Fry. Macrae, 1951. 349p. \$3.50. All ages.

Anthology of poems for special occasions. The selections are generally good, with a mixture of old and modern poems. The occasions include: religious and national holidays; special days such as birthdays, commencement, state's days; and special weeks celebrated in our schools. The wide range of appeal - from Shakespeare to Burgess - will give the book value for all age levels.

Shaw, Thelma. My happy day; a word book; illus. by Suzanne Bruce. Rand McNally, 1951. 32p. (Book-elf books) \$.25.

A reading readiness book for pre-school children. One page has a verse and a picture and the opposite page shows the items in the picture with their corresponding words. The pages are too cluttered with words and pictures to be completely satisfactory. Not recommended.

Smith, Irene. Down the road with Johnny; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Whittlesey House, 1951. 64p. \$1.75. Gr.2-4. (D84)

Another story of Johnny Buckley, his four bachelor uncles, and his teacher, Miss Day. This time Johnny is spending part of his summer vacation on a farm. On his first day there he makes some new friends, acquires a puppy, and learns the fun of being neighborly. A pleasant story and easy enough for second grade readers to handle alone.

Smith, L. Ewell Blackwell, the whip. See Barnes all-star library.

Stevenson, Augusta. Wilbur and Orville Wright, boys with wings; illus. by Paul Laune. Bobbs-Merrill, 1951. 192p. (Childhood of famous Americans series) \$1.75.

Story of the first few years of the life of Wilbur and Orville Wright. Uninspired writing that is not much easier than Reynold's The Wright Brothers (Random House, 1950) and much less interesting. Not recommended.

Stoutenberg, Adrien. Timber line treasure; illus. by Brinton Turkle. Westminster, 1951. 218p. \$2.50.

When Professor Graydon started out to find a lost cave that was supposed to contain some rare prehistoric drawings, he took with him his wife, his nephew Fred, and Fred's best friend, Jolly. From the first their attempts to either find the cave or enjoy a peaceful summer vacation were hampered by an unsavory neighbor who turned out to be a crook who had cached away some stolen money in the cave. To further complicate matters there was a young girl of unknown identity and a deaf hermit with a reputation for shooting at anyone who came near his cabin. The story is melodramatic and employs too many cliches of character and incident to be realistic. Not recommended.

Streathfield, Noel. Skating shoes; illus. by Richard Floethe. Random House, 1951. 245p. \$2.75. Gr.6-8. (D42;D37)

When the family doctor ordered Harriet,

who was recuperating from a long illness, to stay out of school and get as much outdoor exercise as she could, the rest of the Johnson family rallied round to provide the means whereby she could go to the nearby ice-skating rink. There she met Lalla Moore, a wealthy orphan who was being groomed to be a skating champion. The two became good friends with Lalla making it possible for Harriet to have skating lessons and the Johnsons, in turn, giving Lalla the family fun and affection she had missed. Like the other Streatfeild books this one combines a good story with a real understanding of people.

Taylor, Sydney. All-of-a-kind family; illus. by Helen John. Wilcox, 1951. 189p. \$2.75. Gr.4-6. (D65)

The story of a Jewish family living on New York's Lower East Side during the early 1900's. The family calls itself the "all-of-a-kind" family because there are five girls and no boys. In a simple, episodic style the author tells of their everyday happenings - going to the library, playing in their father's junk shop, midnight snacks, etc. Although the writing is not outstanding, the book does give a good picture of life on the Lower East Side and of the celebration of many Jewish festivals. A useful book for intergroup relations.

Thomas, Joan Gale. If Jesus came to my house. Lothrop, 1951. 18p. \$1. K-Gr.1. (D101)

The Golden Rule interpreted in verse for young readers. There is a nice rhythm to the verse and the ideas are presented in a way that will be meaningful for young children.

Tippett, James Sterling. Tools for Andy; pictures by Kay Draper. Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1951. 48p. \$1.50.

Another attempt at teaching the use of tools that is less successful than the Beim, Tim and the tool chest (see above). Tools are described but how they should be handled is not made clear. Each section begins with a verse that adds nothing to the usefulness or enjoyment of the book. The last picture shows Andy with his own tool chest in a state of disruption that promises dull tools and cut fingers. Not recommended.

Tudor, Tasha. Amanda and the bear. Oxford, 1951. 24p. \$1.75. Gr.1-3.

Amanda is a small girl who owns a pet bear named Andy. In typical Tudor style the text and illustrations show the adventures of the two from the time Andy is a tiny cub until he becomes so large he is sent to a zoo.

Uchida, Yoshiko. New friends for Susan; illus. by Henry Sugimoto. Scribner's, 1951. 185p. \$2. Gr.3-5. (D59)

Slight story of a Japanese-American family living in Berkeley, California. Susan takes part in school activities, makes new friends, and helps her family celebrate special occasions, both Japanese festivals and American holidays. Not outstanding but acceptable as intergroup material.

Urquhart, Elizabeth. Horace; illus. by Rosita Pastor. Dutton, 1951. 115p. \$2.

Slight fantasy built around the adventures

of a small girl and a baby dragon. Miriam, the little girl, rescues Horace, the baby dragon, and in return is invited to his house for tea. To get there she must jump off a high bridge at midnight (a questionable activity to suggest in a children's book). After she jumps the story is not quite clear as to how she gets to Horace's house or back again. Not only is the story confusing in spots, the action is too slow-paced to hold the reader's interest. Not recommended.

Wellman, Manly Wade. The haunts of Drowning Creek. Holiday house, 1951. 205p. \$2.50.

Two boys set off on a canoe trip down Drowning Creek in North Carolina and end up finding a lost Confederate treasure. The characters lack reality in either dialog or actions and the plot is too dependent on coincidence. Not recommended.

Will [pseud.] See Lipkind, William.

Winders, Gertrude Hecker. James Fenimore Cooper, leatherstocking boy; illus. by Clotilde Embree Funk. Bobbs-Merrill, 1951. 187p. (Childhood of famous Americans series) \$1.75.

Biography of James Fenimore Cooper with the emphasis on his childhood and the events that gave him the background of his stories. The shift of focus from Cooper, to his children, to a group of modern boys and girls is confusing and not good writing. Not recommended.

Instructional Materials, Supplementary Reading and Sources of Materials

Books for you; a list for leisure reading for use by students in senior high schools. National Council of Teachers of English, 211 W. 68th St., Chicago 21., 1951. 40p. Annotated list arranged by subject.

Bottcher, Robert. "Children's book illustration" School Arts 51:14-15; 9a S'51.

Burton, Dwight L. "The novel for the adolescent" The English Journal 40:363-69 S'51.

Hybels, R. J. "Vitalizing a high school library" The English Journal 40:440-45 S'51

LaSalle, Dorothy. Rhythms and dances for elementary schools. Rev. ed. Barnes, 1951. 201p. \$4.

Learned, Mrs. Kenneth A. "What of their reading?" California Teachers Association Journal 47:24-25 S'51.

Maddox, Trean A. "School library supervisory programs in city school systems" Journal of Experimental Education 20:1-39 S'51.

Pathways to pleasure; compiled by a joint committee from the Catholic schools and the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Baltimore, Md., 1951.

Two annotated lists for grades seven and eight. Bibliographic information includes author and title only.

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